



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY

GRADUATION

6.30pm, Thursday 7th February 2019

THE PLATFORM

Perth



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Perth

*Graduation Address
delivered by*

**Reverend Associate Professor
Frank Rees**

Officers of the University

Chancellor

Dr Graeme Blackman AO FTSE FAICD
BSc(Hons), BD, MTheol, PhD

Deputy Chancellor

Reverend Dr Andrew Menzies
BA, BMin, MMin, DMin

Vice-Chancellor

Professor Peter Sherlock
BA(Hons), MA, DPhil

Chair of Academic Board

Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees
BA(Hons), MA, DipEd, BD(Hons), MTheol PhD

THE CEREMONY of conferring degrees and awarding diplomas and certificates is a time-honoured ritual performed at universities throughout the world. It is the moment when awards are formally made, and is a celebration of the achievements of the graduands.

Graduation ceremonies at the University of Divinity celebrate the academic excellence of our students, honour our collegiate structure and reveal the richness of the many Christian traditions which shape our identity.

THE UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY promotes the highest standards of scholarship in theology, philosophy and ministry. Through scholarship, the University aims to address the issues of the contemporary world. Founded in 1910 as the Melbourne College of Divinity, the University has a long history of pursuing and achieving these aims.

All students and staff join the University through one of its Colleges. Based in the Australian cities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney, each College is a unique learning community that contributes to a theologically diverse and rich culture of scholarship at the University.

Through the Colleges, the University is supported by thirty partners in the churches and religious orders. These include the Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Coptic Orthodox, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and Uniting Church traditions.

The University's work is further resourced by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, which provides support to the Colleges and the University's Council and Academic Board.



The University Mace, dedicated 2017



WELCOME.

TONIGHT WE GATHER AT THE PLATFORM, PERTH,
TO WITNESS THE GRADUATION OF 18 STUDENTS.

On behalf of the Council of the University, I am delighted to welcome each graduand to tonight's ceremony. We honour your academic achievements in theology, education, and ministry.

At this ceremony, each of you becomes a member of the alumni community of the University of Divinity. Our alumni are found in every corner of the globe, serving their churches and communities in extraordinary ways. As you join them, I trust that you will draw more on your attributes as a graduate of the University, as you continue to learn, articulate, communicate, engage and serve.

I thank all who have come tonight in support of our graduands, including family, friends, colleagues, and members of the University Council and the staff of its Colleges. Your support is invaluable to our graduands and to the University as a whole as it seeks to address the issues of our contemporary world through critical engagement with Christian theological traditions.

Dr Graeme Blackman AO FTSE FAICD

BD 1993, MTheol 2006

Chancellor





OUR VISION

Together we empower our learning community to address the issues of the contemporary world through critical engagement with Christian theological traditions.

OUR MISSION

We fulfil our vision through:

- excellence in learning, teaching, and research;
- growth of our resources and capacity; and
- engagement with the churches and community in Australia and internationally.

OUR GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

1. LEARN

Graduates are equipped for critical study, especially of Christian texts and traditions.

2. ARTICULATE

Graduates articulate theological insight and reflection.

3. COMMUNICATE

Graduates communicate informed views through structured argument.

4. ENGAGE

Graduates engage with diverse views, contexts and traditions.

5. SERVE

Graduates are prepared for the service of others.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees is an ordained Baptist minister and has served as Chair of the University of Divinity Academic Board since 2017.

Previously he was Principal of Whitley College, Melbourne, where he taught Systematic Theology since 1991. He now teaches as an adjunct lecturer at several colleges within the University and has research interests in theology as biography.

He leads an international study project on the lives of 'Baptist saints' and is co-chair of a dialogue between the Baptist World Alliance and the Roman Catholic Church.

Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees

BD (Hons) 1976, MTheol 1981

Chair of the Academic Board, University of Divinity

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

Vice-Chancellor's Scholars are graduands who have demonstrated excellence in one or more of the University's Graduate Attributes. This may include academic excellence, contribution to the College community, and service to wider society. The award is made at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor on the nomination of the graduand's College.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Please stand for the procession

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS AND WELCOME

Dr Graeme Blackman AO FTSE FAICD
Chancellor

OPENING PRAYER

Reverend Dr Andrew Menzies
Principal, Stirling Theological College

SCRIPTURE READING

Simone Louise Smalley
Bachelor of Ministry 2019

2 Corinthians 5: 11-21

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

PRAYERS

The prayers are led by graduands from
Stirling Theological College and Yarra Theological Union.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.



GRADUATION ADDRESS

Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees
Chair of the Academic Board

MUSIC

Psalm 23 (I am not alone)
People and Songs, Joshua Sherman

GRADUATION

The Chair of the Academic Board,
The Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees,
certifies to the Chancellor that all graduands have
completed the requirements of their awards.

FOLLOWING THE GRADUATION

CAMPOLO AWARD

Presented by: **Josh Bond**
Co-Director of Catalyst

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Amit Khaira
Master of Theological Studies 2019

CONCLUSION

Dr Graeme Blackman

FINAL PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

Reverend Dr Andrew Menzies

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Please stand for the procession

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Presenter **The Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees**, *Chair of the Academic Board*

Ross Anthony Clay *Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry*

EVA BURROWS COLLEGE

Presenter **The Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees**, *Chair of the Academic Board*

Simone Louise Smalley *Bachelor of Ministry*

Andrew Kenneth Daniel Smith *Graduate Diploma in Theology*

Michelle Rae Smith *Bachelor of Ministry*

JESUIT COLLEGE OF SPIRITUALITY

Presenter **The Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees**, *Chair of the Academic Board*

Robyn Margaret Fitzgerald *Master of Spiritual Direction*

STIRLING THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Presenter **The Reverend Dr Andrew Menzies**, *Principal*

Sepehr Eslami Amirabadi *Diploma in Theology*

Luke Adam Winter *Diploma in Theology*

Samuel Gus Higginbottom *Diploma in Theology*

Paul Anthony King *Master of Spiritual Direction*

April Louise Rocha Madureira *Diploma in Theology*

Amit Khaira *Master of Theological Studies*

Charles Edward Roennfeldt *Diploma in Theology*

TRINITY COLLEGE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

Presenter **The Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees**, *Chair of the Academic Board*

Frida Yohana Lemi *Diploma in Theology*

WHITLEY COLLEGE

Presenter **The Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees**, *Chair of the Academic Board*

Carolyn Joy Francis *Master of Theological Studies*

YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION

Presenter **The Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees**, *Chair of the Academic Board*

Christopher John Power *Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction* **Timoteus Terong Tapoona** *Master of Theology (Coursework)*
Su Min Yim *Master of Theological Studies*

HIGHER DEGREES BY RESEARCH

Presenter **The Reverend Associate Professor Frank Rees**, *Chair of the Academic Board*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Stefan Robert Gigacz

Yarra Theological Union

Thesis: The Leaven in the Council: Joseph Cardijn and the Jocist Network at Vatican II

Supervisor: Reverend Dr Bruce Duncan CSsR

This thesis studies the contribution of Joseph Cardijn and other bishops and theologians from the YCW (JOC) movement in helping develop the Vatican II vision of lay apostolate, and in the Council's adoption of the jocist see-judge-act methodology and vision of a Church deeply concerned with the present world.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS 2019

Robyn Margaret Fitzgerald

Jesuit College of Spirituality

Robyn chose to study a Master of Spiritual Direction at the University of Divinity to assist her with her work as a spiritual director and Giver of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. Robyn's commitment to her studies shows in her outstanding results throughout her five years of part-time study, her active participation in all learning activities, and the praise of her lecturers and supervisors. Robyn is a most deserving Vice-Chancellor's scholar.

Amit Khaira

Stirling Theological College

For over a decade, Amit has led and inspired young people towards a fruitful life in Christ through chaplaincy, youth ministry, inter-faith dialogue and offering his broad suite of gifts to the church and the world. He has pioneered a social-enterprise café, co-designed the Catabyst program and led students on domestic and international cross-cultural immersion trips. He has maintained a commitment to ongoing theological study which he has completed with excellent results.



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stirling
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